

I have signed many statements with a similar intent. However, I have some questions (not necessarily fatal) about the NAS as a vehicle. I do believe that, if the NAS is to be brought into it, customary procedures of finding a consensus should be followed. The NAS' vote is not going to settle the war; but in the process we may still wreck the Academy as an orderly recourse for objective and credible advice.

Sincerely,

John Ledy
JUN 5 1970

Mathematics Department
University of California, Berkeley
May 25, 1970

Dear Dr. Lederberg,

There is no doubt that many members of the academic community feel very strongly about the war in southeast Asia. Some of us believe that a petition such as the enclosed one might be considered seriously by President Nixon if it were signed by a substantial number of members of the National Academy of Sciences. If, as now seems likely, a substantial proportion do sign this petition, we hope that the principal wire services will regard this fact as a news item to be distributed to newspapers all over the country. Of course the petition will be communicated to the President, perhaps through his scientific adviser.

We are therefore inviting you to sign the enclosed petition and return it to:

Professor Charles B. Morrey, Jr.

210 Yale Avenue

Berkeley, California 94708

In case you do not wish to sign the petition please return it unsigned. We believe that it will be important for us to report the ratio of the signers to the total number of members who were contacted.

Sincerely yours,

Charles B. Morrey Jr.
Charles B. Morrey, Jr.
Professor of Mathematics

P.S. This procedure will assuredly give undue weight to the minority of NAS members who support the Cambodian invasion and will assuredly not be silent.